

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7522

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2519

REF: MOSCOW 0767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV PUBLICITY

1. BREZHNEV AND MOST OF MOSCOW-BASED LEADERS
ATTENDED EXHIBIT OF MILITARY PAINTINGS AT MANEZH
OF FEBRUARY 21. LARGE PHOTO AND ACCOUNT ARE IN ALL CENTRAL
PRESS AND FEATURED ON TV.

2. BREZHNEV'S ACTIVITIES AS BRIGADE POLITICAL COMMISSAR
IN FIGHTER NEAR ROSTOV IN AUTUMN OF 1941 IS HIGHLIGHT
OF BOOK REVIEWED IN WEEKLY "LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA,"
FEBRUARY 21 ISSUE, BY ANATOLIY YELKIN. BOOK TITLED
"V TU SUROVUYU OSEN" (THAT HARSH AUTUMN) WAS PUBLISHED
BY VOYENIZDAT (MILITARY PUBLISHING HOUSE) IN 1974 AND
IS CO-AUTHORED BY M.KOTOV AND V. LYASKOVSKIY. BOOK
RETELLS STORY OF BREZHNEV'S EDITORSHIP OF COMBAT
STORY AND HIS ROLE IN NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF TANK
BATTLE.

3. COMMENT: BREZHNEV'S ART SHOW APPEARANCE IS
CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS OF 2-3 WEEKS MORE REST
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GAINED FROM RECENT COMMENTS BY SOVIET OFFICIALS.

BUT BREZHNEV MAY REDUCE WORKLOAD DURING NEXT
FORTNIGHT. NEXT IMPORTANT VISITOR IS FRENCH PM
CHIRAC WHO ARRIVES MARCH 19.

4. IMAGE-BUILDING RATHER THAN BURNISHING THE ABSENT
LEADER'S NAME MAY BE THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE SECOND
ARTICLE WITHIN A MONTH IN "LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA"
ABOUT BREZHNEV'S WARTIME EXPLOITS. WARTIME EDITING OR ARTICLES
MAY NOT STRIKE SOME READERS AS THE STUFF OF HEROISM,
AND IN THIS REGARD LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY
SAYS: "TI WOULD BE NAIVE TO SUPPOSE THAT BRIGADE
COMMISSAR BREZHNEV HAD NOTHING MORE URGENT THAN
WORK WITH YOUNG WRITERS..."
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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